



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME HUNTER INFORMATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM INTEREST ASSESSMENT SURVEY

INTRODUCTION: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Hunter Information and Training Program is dedicated to meeting the informational and training needs of the Alaska hunter. Our programs' mission is to increase the knowledge and skills of the Alaskan hunter and to support ethical hunting behavior in the field. To determine and meet the needs and interests of hunters it is vital that the Department of Fish and Game obtain direct input from as many hunters as possible. We ask that you take a few minutes of your valuable time to complete the following interest survey. Your opinion is very important to us and you will see the results of this survey in future clinics and workshops. Your name and address will be placed on our mailing list. Everyone on the mailing list will receive advance notice of any clinics in which they express high interest. Thank you for your interest and support.

PRINT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Street number or PO Box

City and ZIP

AGE: ☐ 9 – 15 ☐ 16 – 22 ☐ 23 -35 ☐ 36 - 49 ☐ 50 +

SEX: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE

DO YOU HAVE A HUNTER EDUCATION CARD? (FROM ANY STATE) ☐ YES ☐ NO

DO HAVE A CURRENT ALASKA HUNTING LICENSE? ☐ YES ☐ NO

DIRECTIONS: For each clinic topic on the following pages please check the box which most closely reflects your level of interest in **attending** a workshop or clinic.

☐ Very Interested
(I would attend)

☐ Somewhat Interested
(I might attend)

☐ Not Interested
(I would not attend)

RIFLE SHOOTING SKILLS CLINIC: The clinic will focus on improving the field shooting skills of hunters on simulated game-sized targets from actual field shooting positions. Skill in range estimation and bullet placement will be emphasized and improved. May be offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

SHOTGUN SHOOTING SKILLS CLINIC: The clinic will improve the shooting skills of the upland and waterfowl hunter. The clinic will cover selection of proper loads and shot size for each type of game sought. Learn the correct elements of stance, gun mounting, swing, and follow through in field conditions. The role of load selection and shooting skills in minimizing crippling loss will be emphasized. May be offered at beginning and advanced levels.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

HANDLOADING CLINIC: Participants will learn about the equipment needed to handload rifle and shotgun ammunition safely and economically. Equipment will be demonstrated and each participant will load several rounds of ammunition under the guidance of experts. Participants will learn the criteria needed to select proper bullets for hunting various Alaskan big game animals. May be offered at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

MUZZLELOADING CLINIC: Provides the basic skills and information needed to become a skilled and ethical muzzleloading hunter. Learn how to select a muzzleloader, propellant, and projectile to meet your hunting needs. Participants will learn how to load, fire, disassemble, clean, and assemble muzzleloading firearms. Hunters successfully completing this clinic will be given National Muzzleloader Certification and will become aware of special muzzleloader hunting opportunities in Alaska and the lower 48.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

ANIMAL TRACKING AND SIGN IDENTIFICATION: This clinic will enhance the hunter or naturalist's skill in identifying signs of animal presence and usage in various habitats. Learn to observe and distinguish identifying characteristics including scat, tracks, and foraging marks. Clinics may be held in both winter snow cover and open conditions during other seasons. The hunter's skill in locating and tracking both live and wounded game will be emphasized.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

CALLING BIG GAME: Learn how to call a moose so close you can shake antlers with him. Incredible photography, videography, or meat on the table! This key skills workshop will teach you the essentials of calling moose, elk, and deer both in Alaska and the lower 48. Learn when and how calls work and which sound you need under a variety of hunting conditions. We are not responsible for the bad intentions rutting bulls and bucks may develop for your lovelorn cow call! Beware, this clinic may be dangerous to your well-being but more excitement in the field than you have previously experienced.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

PREDATOR CALLING: Nothing beats the excitement of having the tables turned and you are now the hunted rather than the hunter! Learn how to call coyotes, wolves, lynx, and bear. This is a hands-on clinic that will teach you how to select a call, how to use that call, where and how to set up a calling stand to increase your chances of luring in a master predator.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

FIELD CARE, BUTCHERING, AND WILD GAME COOKING: The fee in this course will be used to purchase reindeer which participants will field dress, butcher, and wrap. Each participant will be able to take home a share of the meat. This workshop will be conducted over a two week period to cover each component thoroughly. (The fee will be set to cover the purchase cost of the animals.)

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

FIELD CARE OF TROPHIES: The trophy of your dreams is on the ground. You can already see him on your home's wall and are relishing the re-telling of the adventure for years to come. But now what? You are miles and days from a taxidermist. If you don't do this right you can ruin the trophy of a lifetime. Come learn how to successfully cape your trophy for the taxidermist. Experts will show you how and tell you exactly the equipment needed to do the job right.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

SURVIVAL FOR HUNTERS: One of the great hunting experiences is finding yourself in the remote Alaskan wilderness. One of the worst experiences in life is being lost or stranded in the often unforgiving wilderness. Join our experts as they teach you how to cope with human fear and demonstrate proven techniques for surviving and thriving under the most difficult of wilderness conditions. This workshop will enhance your confidence away from the beaten path, improve your chances of finding undisturbed game, and show you how to safely spike camp in the midst of game. Much of this course will be taught in the field, hands-on.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

WILDERNESS MEDICINE AND FIRST AID: You are 100 miles from the nearest road or settlement and you or your hunting partner suffers a severe cut, a burn, chest pain, or a nasty sprain. Do you know enough to evaluate the injury or condition and make an informed decision on whether the hunt can safely continue? Can you administer the necessary first aid? Qualified emergency first aiders will teach life-saving techniques such as CPR. Advanced first aid for cuts, burns, and sprains will be covered. Instructors will also help you put together a wilderness first aid kit designed especially to meet the hunter's needs.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

PROFESSIONAL WITNESS COURSE: Wildlife law violators take precious resources from the law-abiding hunter. Many violators escape successful prosecution because witnesses fail to gather and remember critical evidence. In this workshop, biologists, wildlife protection officers, and attorneys will provide participants with the skill necessary to become reliable witnesses to the prosecution of wildlife crime. Every hunter afield can do his or her part to end wildlife crime and preserve our hunting opportunities.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: How does the biologist find out how many moose are in the woods? What do bears really do in the woods? How do biologists determine how many animals may be taken by hunters and leave plenty for the future? How do biologists know whether females and yearlings should be hunted? Learn the essentials of scientific wildlife management. Be able to interpret the sign you see in the woods and use that knowledge to estimate population and animal behavior patterns to help you become a more successful hunter.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

MASTER HUNTER CERTIFICATION: This is advanced hunter education certification. The master hunter candidate will complete advanced classwork in firearms, natural history of game animals, wildlife management, and the philosophy and ethics of hunting. The candidate will demonstrate a high level of proficiency with his or her hunting weapons. The candidate will serve 10 hours as a ADF&G volunteer on a mutually selected wildlife management project. This program is intended to reward the dedicated and skillful hunter with special hunting opportunities such as preference points toward draw permits or urban/near urban limited entry hunts if approved by the Board of Game. **Basic hunter education card required to register.**

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

THE HUNTING CAMP AND GEAR CLINIC: This clinic will offer information and assistance on equipment needed by the Alaskan hunter for safety and success in the field. What equipment is needed for various types of hunts, how to select quality equipment, and candid expert evaluations of essential gear. The Gear clinic will cover clothing, shelter, survival equipment, cooking gear, packs, and other important hunting gear.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

WATERFOWL HUNTING CLINIC: The goal of the waterfowl clinic is to increase the skill level of the Alaska waterfowl hunter. Use of blinds, decoys, and calls will be taught. Waterfowl identification skills will be presented. Selection of the proper shot size and load velocity will be emphasized to minimize crippling loss. Hunters will improve their shooting skills by practice shooting under the supervision of qualified coaches.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

FLOAT HUNTING ALASKA'S RIVERS: No other hunting technique allows you to experience so much of the real solitude of wilderness as does float hunting. This workshop will prepare you with the knowledge needed to select the equipment needed for limited space and weight fly-in hunts. Let experienced float hunters help you plan every step of a safe and successful big-game float hunt.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

NAVIGATION FOR HUNTERS: MAP, COMPASS, AND GPS One of the prime reasons cited for hunting is being able to experience the wilderness. Enjoying the wilderness and feeling comfortable in leaving roads and trails behind depends in large part on the hunter's ability to use navigational tools. This hands-on course is designed to develop hunters' skills in map reading, compass and Global Positioning System use. A significant part of this course will be taught in the field. Hunters who complete this course will be able to travel the non-roaded back country with confidence and safety.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

USING ATV'S, OFF-ROAD VEHICLES, BOATS, AND SNOWMOBILES FOR HUNTING: Many hunters use off-road vehicles and boats to save time and labor when hunting. Many hunters are also now being criticized for using off-road vehicles and boats to harass game, destroy critical habitat, and disturb the silence of the backcountry. Learn to safely and ethically use off-road vehicles and boats to enhance your hunt while minimizing damage to the environment and offending other users. Participants will get to try out off-road vehicles and boats during this workshop.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

SIGHTING IN DAYS: This clinic will be held at the at a rifle range. The clinic assists hunters in preparing their rifles for the hunting season. Hunters will sight in their firearms under the supervision of experts who will provide tips for correctly sighting in rifles and will assist hunters in correctly mounting their scopes. Each hunter's hunting loads will be chronographed in their own rifle and they will be given a trajectory chart for their specific load.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

BECOMING AN OUTDOOR FAMILY: Becoming an Outdoors Family is a hands-on workshop focused on the learning of outdoor skills; skills usually associated with hunting and fishing but useful for many outdoor pursuits. Designed for families, traditional or non-traditional, with children between the ages of 10 - 17 this workshop will provide classes with experienced sportsmen and women from across the state. Expert teachers will provide instruction in a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere. Select activities such as archery, firearms safety and marksmanship, fishing skills, Dutch oven cooking, ATV safety, camping skills, shotgun shooting, fly fishing, identification of plants and animals, and boating. Join us for a memorable weekend that will provide your family the necessary skills to take advantage of Alaska's abundant wildlife.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

BECOMING AN OUTDOOR WOMAN: Based on a tried and true national model program, BOW introduces the Alaskan woman to the field sports in a supportive, non-competitive, and non-threatening environment. Join other interested women of all ages in learning to paddle a canoe, cook nutritious and easy meals over a camp stove or campfire, and how to field dress and care for game meat. You will be taught outdoor skills which may include shotgun and rifle shooting, archery, basic boat operation, blackpowder shooting, plant and animal identification. A great way to begin a vigorous outdoor life.

☐ Very Interested

☐ Somewhat Interested

☐ Not Interested

Please complete the survey by answering the following questions.

Alaska had 5 firearms hunting-related fatalities during 1997, resulting in the highest firearms-related hunting fatality rate of any state. Alaska is the only state that does not require hunter education. Required hunter education has typically resulted in a 75 percent decrease in hunting fatalities. The volunteer hunter education instructors of Alaska propose that Alaska implement a statewide hunter education requirement beginning in the year 2000. Anyone who now has a hunter education card from Alaska or another state would meet any future requirements. To reduce fatalities and accidents would you support requiring hunter education in Alaska?

☐ YES, I would support requiring hunter education:

___ for all hunters.

___ for all hunters age 21.

___ for all hunters age 16.

☐ NO, I would not support requiring hunter education.

One of the approaches to a state-wide hunter education system is an incentive based system to encourage more hunters to take hunter education classes and to improve hunter skills and behavior in the field. One type of incentive based system would give hunter education course and advanced course graduates "preference points" or additional random numbers in the statewide drawing hunts for all species.

☐ YES, I would support an incentive based system in which completion of a hunter education class and advanced classes would give the hunter "preference points" or additional random numbers in the drawing hunts.

☐ NO, I would not support an incentive based system in which completion of a hunter education class and advanced classes would give the hunter preference points or additional random numbers in the drawing hunts.

As human population centers grow, near-urban hunting opportunities are often lost because of public safety concerns. Some states have implemented a master hunter program of advanced hunter education. Master hunters are allowed to participate in highly visible near-urban hunts which require the utmost in safety and ethics and in areas that otherwise would be closed to hunting. Master hunters also receive preference points or additional random numbers in drawing hunts.

- ☐ YES, I would support a master hunter program in Alaska.
- ☐ NO, I would not support a master hunter program in Alaska.

Bow hunters must currently pass a competency test in marksmanship in order to hunt with a bow in bow-only hunting areas. Should firearm hunters also demonstrate competency in marksmanship as part of a basic hunter education course?

- ☐ YES, I agree that competency testing should be required for hunter education.
- ☐ NO, I do not agree that competency testing should be required for hunter ed.

National statistics show that almost 40% of all two party hunting accidents are caused by hunters ages 20 through 39. The average person causing a hunting fatality averages 30 years of age and has had 17 years of hunting experience. To prevent accidents caused by mature hunters and reduce the number of hunting fatalities, a hunter education card should be renewed every 5 years by attending a short refresher course on safety and changes in hunting regulations.

- ☐ YES, I agree that periodic refresher courses should be required to minimize hunting accidents and fatalities.
- ☐ NO, I do not agree that periodic refresher courses should be required in order to minimize hunting accidents and fatalities.

Young people today have a difficult time becoming hunters. Increasing urbanization and many single parent families are among the many obstacles to becoming a young hunter. Some states have initiated special youth hunts near urban areas to provide opportunities for volunteer mentors and family members to introduce young people to hunting. Youth hunts do not replace hunts for all ages but set aside some time, typically at the beginning of a season, for hunts without adult competition.

- ☐ YES, I would support the Department of Fish and Game creating short-term hunts near urban areas for young hunters ages.
- ☐ NO, I would not support creation of special short-term hunts near urban areas for young hunters.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Return To:

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game,
Hunter Information and Training
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518

TAPE OR
STAPLE HERE